

# **Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board**

## ***October Meeting Minutes***

### **Department of Economic and Community Development**

October 13, 2016

9:00AM-10:30 PM

505 Hudson Street

Hartford, Connecticut

#### **Attendance**

- Board Members: Catherine Smith, Colin Cooper, Don Balducci, Beverlee Dacey, Chris DiPentima, John Harrity, Todd Phil
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders: Jennifer Herz, Bernice Zampano, Tracey Ariel, Tom Maloney, Bonnie DelConte, Kathy Marioni, Kurt Westby, Paul Striebel, Rich Pearson, Todd Berch,
- DECD Staff: Carmen Molina-Rios, Barbara Fernandez, Toni Karnes

#### **Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:10 am.

1. **Call to Order:** Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting and introductions were made.

**Approval of September 8, 2016 meeting minutes** – John Harrity moved to Accept September Minutes; Don Balducci seconded motion. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **Sikorsky and Lock Heed Martin Project Update** – Catherine Smith provided an overview of the State's efforts to keep the production of the new CH53K helicopter in Connecticut. Beverlee Dacey gave kudos to the team for making it happen. John Harrity also offered thanks for one of the best Economic Development deals in the country.
3. **Connecticut Technology Talent Fund** – Commissioner Smith advised the group about the intent and focus of the Connecticut Technology Fund. She noted that a separate Board was created to look at gaps and the talents needed to match with the skills needed in the information technology cluster. Catherine noted that the big goal of the initiative was to begin to make strategic investments in filling the gaps in the areas of:
  - Skill development.
  - Communications between universities, employers and students.
  - Increasing the number of graduates in Connecticut with the right skill sets.
4. **Manufacturing Month Events** – Carmen Molina-Rios provided the Board with an overview of the events planned for November to highlight manufacturing in the state of

Connecticut. She provided an overview of a number of events which included Girls in Manufacturing and the Dream It Do It Ambassador Program in partnership with Pratt.

5. **MIF Marketing Plan** – Beverlee Dacey introduced an update on the progress of the MIF marketing plan development. Todd Phil provided an overview on how the Committee might tell Connecticut's story by creating awareness of the MIF fund and thus convince existing advanced manufacturer's to grow and expand their business in Connecticut, attract other manufacture's to relocate in Connecticut, encourage experienced and emerging talent to advance their careers in Connecticut and raise awareness as to how important manufacturing is to Connecticut's economic vigor
6. **Access to Capital Update** – Colin Cooper noted the need of providing capital for the shipbuilding and aerospace businesses to finance growth. He noted it was important to identify ways for the state to partner with private capital entities to facilitate this economic activity.
7. **Workforce** – After some discussion, John Harrity provided an update on the Workforce Committee's activities and recommendations.

**Apprenticeship Program-** John Harrity provided an overview of the goals and objectives of the program. He highlighted the industry feedback on what was working and made recommendations for six policy changes in order to respond to the industry feedback. After subsequent discussion, a motion was made by Chris DePentima to move forward on the following changes

- Provide wage subsidy or purchase work related for apprentices who completed related instruction;
- Remove credential requirement for apprentices who document acquisition of relevant NIMS credential.

John Harrity seconded the motion. The motion passed. Beverlee Dacey abstained. Catherine Smith asked the Committee to come back to the Board with the amount of funding needed. Mr. Harrity continued to review the Committee's recommendations regarding program design and budget. After some discussion Catherine asked that the Committee come back to the Board with recommended Board adjustments to program design.

- **CTC Proposal** - Catherine Smith advised the Board that the CTC Proposal had been withdrawn.

8. **IMCP Report and Washington DEC Summit** – Carmen Molina-Rios reviewed IMCP the report metrics with the Board. She also highlighted the scheduled events for the upcoming Washington DC Summit.
9. **Other Business** – Next meeting Date November 14, 2016.

Beverlee Dacey made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. John Harrity Second. The meeting was adjourned at 10:47